

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A dust-clearing band saw blade, comprising:
a longitudinal-extending body having a blade thickness with a blank side and a cutting side;

a plurality of spaced teeth having cutting edges formed on the cutting side of said body each tooth having a curvilinear ski-jump shaped profile;

a blade valley defined between each adjacent tooth; and

a cut out defined in said blade valley, said cut out positioned in front of the cutting edge of each tooth, and extending through said blade thickness in a lower part of said blade valley, said cut out extending below said blade valley and having a depth no more than one-half the height of its adjacent tooth.

2. (Previously Presented) The band saw blade as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cut out is U-shaped and positioned directly in front of each tooth.

3. (Previously Presented) The band saw blade as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cutting edges extend parallel to each other.

4. (Previously Presented) The band saw blade as claimed in claim 2, wherein a side wall of each cut out is formed by the adjacent tooth's cutting edge.

5. (Previously Presented) The band saw blade as claimed in claim 4, wherein said side wall is an extension of said cutting edge in said lower part of said blade valley.

6. (Previously Presented) The band saw blade as claimed in claim 1, wherein each respective tooth defines a ski-jump shaped profile and each cutting edge defines a tooth rake angle ranging from 0 to 15 degrees.

7. (Previously Presented) The band saw blade as claimed in claim 1, wherein an axis bisection of each cut out forms an angle ranging from 0 to 15 degrees with respect to vertical.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The band saw blade as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cut out has a depth corresponding to said blade thickness.

10. (Currently Amended) A dust-clearing band saw blade comprising:
a flexible, longitudinal-extending body having a blade thickness with a blank side and a cutting side;

a plurality of spaced teeth having cutting edges formed on the cutting side of said body;

a blade valley defined between each adjacent tooth; and

a cut out having a side wall defined in said blade valley, said cut out positioned in front of the cutting edge of each tooth and extending through said blade thickness, wherein said side wall is an extension of said cutting edge in a lower part of said blade valley, said cut out extending below said blade valley and having a depth no more than one-half the height of its adjacent tooth.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) The band saw blade as claimed in claim 1, wherein an upwardly directed lip is positioned between said cut out and said blade valley.